

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6606

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USNATO BRUSSELS 712

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1693

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, CY

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK REACTION TO EVENTS IN
CYPRUS

1. EVENTS IN CYPRUS HAVE RECEIVED FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS SINCE TUESDAY, JULY 16. ALL MAJOR PAPERS HAVE REFLECTED GENERAL REPORTING OF EVENTS BY RUDE PRAVO, CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY, AS WELL AS ITS STRONG EDITORIAL POSITION IN SUPPORT OF MAKARIOS' GOVERNMENT.

2. RUDE PRAVO JULY 18 FEATURED FACTUAL WRAP-UP OF EVENTS TO DATE COUPLED WITH SHARP EDITORIAL ON CYPRUS SITUATION. REPRINTING TASS (MOSCOW) STATEMENT APPARENTLY OF JULY 17, RP ALSO PUBLISHED OFFICIAL CZECHOSLOVAK NEWS SERVICE (CTK) STATEMENT ATTRIBUTING SAMPSON TAKEOVER TO GREEK OUTSIDE INTERVENTION, DESCRIBING CRISIS AS NO LONGER A MATTER OF INTERNAL CYPRUS AFFAIRS. CHARACTERIZING MAKARIOS' GOVERNMENT AS ALWAYS ON THE SIDE OF PEACEFUL RESOLUTION BOTH OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MATTERS OF CONCERN TO CYPRUS, GTK LABELS "PUTSCH" AS HAVING DIRECT BEARING ON MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, CONFIDENTIAL

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GIVEN CYPRUS' STRATEGIC LOCATION IN MEDITERRANEAN. ASSERTING

THAT ALMOST THE ENTIRE WORLD STOOD BEHIND THE LEGAL MAKARIOS GOVERNMENT, AS DID CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE, CTK CALLED UPON U.N. TO TAKE FULL MEASURES TO RESTORE PEACE AND CYPRIOT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

3. RUDE PROVO'S ECITORIAL LAID BLAME FOR MAKARIOS' OUSTER AT FEET OF GREECE ON ONE HAND, AND "IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES" ON THEOTHER. GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS ACCUSED OF SENDING OFFICERS BY PLANE TO CYPRUS AFTER THE FIGHTING BEGAN, AND SHIPPING HOME MORE THAN 300 MILITARY DEAD, KILLED IN THE FIGHTING. NEW CYPRUS GOVERNMENT, RP CONTINUED, WOULD SERVE NATO IN TWO RESPECTS, ONE OF FORCING IT TO BRING PRESSURE UPON TWO OF ITS MEMBERS TO CEASE INTRA-MEMBERSHIP CONFLICT, AND THE OTHER OF PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE CYPRUS AS NATO STRONGHOLD IN MIDDLE EAST (OR ACCORDING TO SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER LEDOVA DEMOCRACIE, AS NATO'S "UNSINKABLE AIRCRAFT CARRIER.") EDITORIAL DESCRIBED SAMPSON TAKEOVER AS TYPICAL OF PUTSCHES SO CHARACTERISTIC OF IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES, ENUMERATING CHILE, VIET NAM, AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES SINCE WORLD WAR 1 AS OTHER EXAMPLES.

4. EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD THAT POLICY GUIDANCE TO INFORMATION DEPARTMENT AT NOVERMBER UNIVERSITY (AND THUS PRESUMABLY TO OTHER SUCH DEPARTMENTS AND MEDIA IN GENERAL) IS STRONG SUPPORT FOR MAKARIOS, STRONG CONDEMNATION OF GREECE, AND NEUTRAL ATTITUDE TOWARD TURKEY.

5. AT SPANISH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION JULY 18, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RUZEK, IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE AND BRITISH CHARGE, SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS ON CYPRUS. RUZEK EXPRESSED PARTICULAR WORRY THAT IF SITUATION WERE NOT RECTIFIED STRAIGHTWAY, TRYING TO FIX IT UP LATER MIGHT BE IMMENSELY DIFFICULT. BRITISH CHARGE BARRETT, WHO EARLIER SERVED ON CYPRUS, NOTED THAT SAMPSON WAS PARTICULARLY UNSAVORY CHARACTER. RUZEK SAID THAT THIS MIGHT HELP THE SITUATION, IN THAT OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC OPINION AROUND THE WORLD COULD COME TO THE SUPPORT OF MAKARIOS UNQUALIFIEDLY. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT NAMING SUCH A MAN AS SAMPSON SEEMED TO INDICATE THE UN-THOUGHT-OUT, OPPORTUNISTIC NATURE OF THE PLOT. HE STRESSED THAT THE IMPORTANT THING NOW WAS FOR EVERY-CONFIDENTIAL

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ONE TO RALLY AROUND MAKARIOS AND TO INSURE THAT THE NEW REGIME DID NOT GET IMPLANTED.

6. RUZEK'S COMMENTS WERE SOBER AND REASONABLE, AND NOWHERE DID HE CRITICIZE NATO OR ANYONE EXCEPT THE REGIME IN ATHENS.
PERRY

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